



Indiana Department of Education
SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS
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NEWS

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Media Advisory
For Immediate Release
Tuesday, September 4, 2012

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ICSB Schools Up and Running in 2012

First Three Schools Open Their Doors; Six Scheduled to Open Next School Year

Three new charter schools authorized by the Indiana Charter School Board (ICSB) in 2011 have officially started serving students for the 2012-2013 school year. These are the first ICSB authorized schools to open their doors, and they will soon be joined by six additional schools slated to open for the 2013-2014 school year.

“Our vision is to grow the supply of high-performing charter schools in Indiana so families around the state have quality educational options that best meet the needs of their children,” ICSB Executive Director Claire Fiddian-Green said. “The organizers of these schools engaged in a rigorous and transparent application process. Only those applicants who demonstrated the capacity to operate high-performing schools were awarded charters from the ICSB. Once approved, the organizers began implementing well-developed blueprints leading up to the official opening of their schools. They have worked extremely hard leading up to the first day of school and should be proud of their accomplishments.”

The three schools and their organizers are listed below.

- Carpe Diem Meridian, organized by Carpe Diem Indiana and located in Indianapolis
- The Excel Center, organized by Goodwill Education Initiatives and located in Anderson
- The Thurgood Marshall Leadership Academy, organized by the Fort Wayne Urban League and located in Fort Wayne

Carpe Diem Meridian harnesses the power of technology to provide a blended learning opportunity for students; the school emphasizes mastery of content. The Excel Center is a dropout recovery high school for adult learners seeking to earn their high school diplomas. The Thurgood Marshall Leadership Academy offers a college preparatory education that prepares students for college success and socially just citizenship.

Each school officially opened in the last two weeks of August and is still accepting students for the current school year.

The ICSB was established during the 2011 legislative session as part of a comprehensive effort to provide Hoosier families greater access to a variety of high quality educational options. The board is comprised of seven appointed members and administers a fall and spring application cycle each year.

Charter school applicants must submit a letter of intent followed by an application detailing academic, operating and financial plans. Public hearings are held around the state and allow members of the community to share their perspectives on each proposed school. A final vote is taken by the board in an open meeting held at the end of each application cycle.

Every proposal undergoes a thorough analysis that includes external and internal reviews. Approved schools are held accountable across a comprehensive set of academic, financial and compliance indicators. Like traditional public and charter schools, all ICSB-approved schools must administer state assessments and are graded on an A through F scale.

All schools opening in 2012 were approved during the fall 2011 application cycle. The six schools opening next year were approved during the fall 2011 cycle and spring 2012 cycle.

For more information on the Indiana Charter School Board, please visit <http://www.doe.in.gov/idoecscb>.